



Reno Police Department

THE PURPOSE OF OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

Operation Identification is a nation-wide effort of law enforcement agencies and the citizens and businesses they serve. The goal is to reduce property theft through an identification system.

Marking your possessions with an identifying number is an effective method of deterring theft. Thieves find it more difficult to dispose of stolen articles that can be traced through an owner's personal ID number. If caught with marked items, the thief can be convicted. The marked items can also be returned to the rightful owner.

SELECTING A PROPER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Your driver's license number with state abbreviation provides an instantly recognizable number to law enforcement agencies. **Never use your Social Security Number.** If you choose a unique identification number, avoid easily guessed numbers or codes like birthdates, common numerical sequences, mother's maiden name, phone number etc. Instead, choose the address of your favorite restaurant, the number of miles in your car at the last checkup, the number of the bus you take to work, or the apartment number where you grew up.

MARK YOUR PROPERTY

- Mark all of your possessions with an electric engraver (available by check-out from the Washoe County Public Library System), an infrared indelible security marker, or other marking pen.
- Practice using the engraver on scrap material before marking your property.
- The electric engraver can be used on metal, wood, or hard plastic. Your personal ID number should be marked on all removable parts in at least two places: one visible and one hidden.
- Some items cannot be engraved and have no model and/or serial number, such as antiques, furs, jewelry, musical instruments, fine art, and silver. It is suggested that such items be marked with infrared indelible markers and photographed for size and identification purposes.

ENGRAVER OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. The engraver is powered by an AC motor. Make sure that the current you are using is the same as shown on the top of the engraver housing next to the on/off switch.
2. Hold the engraver at a slight angle as you would normally hold a pencil. Hold the unit lightly while resting your arm comfortably on a table. Do not press down hard while engraving. Use a light touch guiding the point over the work somewhat slower than you would normally write.
3. The knob on the side of the engraver housing controls the stroke length and therefore the depth of engraving. It is not intended to be used as an "OFF" switch. A good "rule of thumb" is to select the lowest setting which will produce a deep enough engraving to meet your requirements. To familiarize yourself, experiment with different settings on scrap materials.
4. Enter a complete description of the marked property on an inventory form. Include make, model, serial number, and location of marking(s). Photocopy the completed inventory and keep one copy at home and a second copy off premises in a secure place.
5. Eliminate recorded items from the list when they are permanently removed from the premises. Provide purchasers or recipients with a bill of sale.

For more information, please call Crime Prevention/Community Services at 775-334-2178